You Asked

Do some Christians believe that the Jews, Muslims and Christians worship the same God? Cite sources.

Gemini 3.1 Pro Extended

Yes, many Christians believe that Christians, Jews, and Muslims worship the same God—the God of Abraham. However, this perspective is not universally held and remains a subject of intense theological debate within Christianity.

Here is a breakdown of how different Christian traditions and thinkers approach this, along with the theological sources and controversies surrounding the topic.

The Catholic Perspective

The official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church explicitly affirms that Muslims, Jews, and Christians direct their worship to the same God. This position was solidified in the 1960s during the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II).

- **Lumen Gentium (1964):** The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church states that God's plan of salvation includes those who acknowledge the Creator. It specifically notes: *"In the first place amongst these there are the Muslims, who, professing to hold the faith of Abraham, along with us adore the one and merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind"*.
- **Nostra Aetate (1965):** The Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions reinforces this, stating that Muslims *"adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth"*.

Catholic theology distinguishes between having an *incomplete* understanding of God (rejecting the Trinity) and worshiping a *different* God. In the Catholic view, the "object" of worship is the same, even if the theological understanding of that object differs.

The Protestant and Evangelical Debate

Within Protestantism, opinions are sharply divided. While many mainline Protestants agree with the Catholic view, the subject is highly controversial among conservative and evangelical Christians.

- **Miroslav Volf and *Allah: A Christian Response*:** Dr. Miroslav Volf, a prominent Protestant theologian at Yale University, wrote extensively on this topic. He argues that Christians and Muslims worship the same object—the one true God who created the universe—but understand God's character and commands in "significantly different ways". He asserts that recognizing a shared God is essential for peaceful coexistence.

- **The Wheaton College Controversy (2015):** The tension surrounding this issue was highlighted at Wheaton College, a prominent evangelical institution. Dr. Larycia Hawkins, a political science professor, was suspended and eventually parted ways with the college after she wore a hijab in solidarity with Muslims and publicly stated that Christians and Muslims "worship the same God". The college's pushback reflected a broader evangelical consensus that rejecting the Christian narrative of God means one is not worshiping the same deity.

The Theological Counter-Argument

Christians who argue that the three religions do **not** worship the same God usually base their stance on the doctrine of the Trinity and the Incarnation.

Their core argument is that the Christian God is fundamentally defined as Triune (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Because both Judaism and Islam explicitly reject the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus Christ, many Christians argue that their conception of God is too fundamentally different to be considered the "same" God. To these theologians, Jesus *is* God; therefore, a religion that honors Jesus merely as a prophet (Islam) or rejects his messianic status (Judaism) is worshiping a different conception of the divine.